

REMARKS

The present amendment is submitted simultaneously with a Request for Continued Examination and in response to the final Office Action dated January 7, 2005, which set a three-month period for response, making a response due by April 7, 2005, and with the initial two month period for response expiring on March 7, 2005.

Claims 9-16 are pending in this application.

In the final Office Action, claims 9, 11, and 15-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,049,901 to Gelbart in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,672,464 to Nelson. Claims 10 and 12-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gelbart and Nelson as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,208,369 to Oren et al.

In the present amendment, claims 9 and 15 have been amended to define that the exposure times can be controlled individually for each pixel. As argued previously, the compensation of non-uniformities is not possible with the teaching of Nelson, because there the parallel flow of the particular line as a whole is terminated. Therefore, only a complete row or several rows are omitted by which the exposure process can be tailored to accommodate process equipment and photoresist chemistry variables, but not uniformities within one and the same row.

The present invention, however, is able to compensate these non-uniformities within one row, because the exposure time can be varied for every pixel in the row individually. This is not possible with the teaching of Nelson.

For the reasons set forth above, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 9-16 are patentable over the cited art. The Applicants further request withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103 and reconsideration of the claims as herein amended.

In light of the foregoing amendments and arguments in support of patentability, the Applicants respectfully submit that this application stands in condition for allowance. Action to this end is courteously solicited.

Should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, the undersigned would very much welcome a telephone call in order to discuss appropriate claim language that will place the application into condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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